



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER
No. COVID-19-2**

WHEREAS, The Governor of South Carolina has declared a State of Emergency by Executive Order No. 2020-08, dated March 13, 2020, and directed DHEC, in accordance to S.C. Code of Law Section 44-4-500, to use "every available means to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and to ensure that all cases of infectious disease are subject to proper control and treatment."; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order No. 2020-15, dated March 28, 2020, the Governor extended and amended the state of public health emergency in South Carolina and the grant of emergency powers to DHEC, among other provisions. Further, the Executive Order reads that the "State of South Carolina must promptly undertake and implement additional proactive measures to safeguard the health and safety of law enforcement authorities and other first responders who risk potential exposure to COVID-19 while providing emergency and other essential services during the State of Emergency."; and

WHEREAS, DHEC is invested with all the rights and charged with all the duties pertaining to organizations of like character and is the sole advisor of the State in all questions involving the protection of the public health within its limits (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-1-110); and

WHEREAS, DHEC shall have, upon request, full access to the medical records, tumor registries, and other special disease record systems maintained by physicians, hospitals and other health facilities as necessary to carry out its investigation of epidemic and endemic diseases (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-1-110); and

WHEREAS, DHEC is granted the authority to make, adopt, promulgate and enforce reasonable rules and regulations from time to time requiring and providing for the thorough investigation and study of the causes of all diseases, epidemic and otherwise, in the State, the means for the prevention of contagious disease and the publication and distribution of such information as may contribute to the preservation of the public health and the prevention of disease (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-1-140(12)); and

WHEREAS, DHEC may also make separate orders and rules to meet any emergency not provided for by general rules and regulations, for the purpose of suppressing nuisances dangerous to the public health and communicable, contagious and infectious diseases and other danger to the public life and health (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-1-140).

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NOW, THEREFORE, DHEC finds that it has the authority to create and publish a Web Portal and to grant authorized users only, including 911 dispatchers and first responders, access to the Web Portal pursuant to section 44-1-140(12) of the South Carolina Code of Laws and as directed by the Governor's Executive Order. This access is limited to disclosure of address information and DHEC makes no assurances and does not warrant the accuracy of information contained in the Web Portal, as it may be incomplete and ineffective in preventing exposure to contagious diseases to first responders. DHEC also strongly recommends all first responders make decisions about the use of Personal Protective Equipment in accordance with CDC guidance. First responders must be aware that the COVID-19 virus has infected persons in communities who have no symptoms and have not been tested for this virus. These persons may infect others who come into contact with them. These individuals are unknown to DHEC and may reside in a location to which first responders may be dispatched.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect for the duration of the emergency, unless otherwise modified, amended, or rescinded by subsequent order.



Nicholas E. Davidson
Acting Director of Public Health

Date: 4/3/2020